AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-33.   Cancelled.

34.   (New) An announcement method for use in a publish-subscribe architecture, the method comprising:

compiling an index announcement message based on a plurality of thread identifiers respectively identifying a plurality of announcement threads, wherein each of the plurality of thread identifiers comprises a first and a second sub-part, and

transmitting the compiled index announcement message onto an index channel;

wherein if the second sub-part of any thread identifier to be included within the index announcement message does not match the second sub-part of any other thread identifier to be included within the index announcement message, then including only the second sub-part and not the first sub-part of the thread identifier in the compiled index announcement message, otherwise

if the second sub-part of any thread identifier to be included within the index announcement message does match the second sub-part of any other thread identifier to be included within the index announcement message, then including both the first and second sub-part in the compiled index announcement message

35.   (New) The method according to claim 34 further comprising:

requesting the allocation of a thread identifier from an allocator; and receiving a message from the allocator containing the requested thread identifier.

36. (New) The method according to claim 34 wherein the index channel corresponds to a predetermined set of thread identifiers.

37. (New) A method according to claim 34 wherein the first sub-part of a thread identifier is a network address or other network locator.

38. (New) The method according to claim 37, wherein the first sub-part is a Universal Resource Locator (URL).

39. (New) The method according to claim 37 wherein the first sub-part is an email address.

40. (New) The method according to claim 37 wherein the first sub-part is an Internet Protocol network address.

41. (New) The method according to claim 34 wherein a second sub-part of a sequence identifier is a number.

42. (New) The method according to claim 41 wherein the number is randomly generated.

43. (New) The method according to claim 41 wherein the number is produced by applying a hash function to data defining the subject matter of the sequence of messages.

44. (New) The method according to claim 42 wherein for a given first sub-part, if the number generated for the second sub-part has previously been generated, then repeating the random generation.

45. (New) A tangible storage medium containing a computer program or suite of computer programs arranged such that when executed on a computer system it or they cause the computer system to operate in accordance with the method of claim 34.

- 3 -

46. (New) An announcement system for use in a publish-subscribe architecture, the system comprising:

message compiling means arranged in use to compile an index announcement message containing a plurality of thread identifiers respectively identifying a plurality of announcement threads, wherein each of the plurality of thread identifiers comprises a first and a second sub-part; and

means for transmitting the compiled index announcement message onto an index channel;

wherein if the second sub-part of any thread identifier to be included within the index announcement message does not match the second sub-part of any other thread identifier to be included within the index announcement message, then the compiling means is adapted to include only the second sub-part and not the first sub-part of the thread identifier in the compiled index announcement message, otherwise

if the second sub-part of any thread identifier to be included within the index announcement message does match the second sub-part of any other thread identifier to be included within the index announcement message, then the compiling means is adapted to include both the first and second sub-part in the compiled index announcement message.

47. (New) The system according to claim 46 and further comprising:

means for requesting the allocation of a sequence identifier from an allocator; and means for receiving a message from the allocator containing the requested sequence identifier.

48. (New) The system according to claim 47 wherein the index channel corresponds to a predetermined set of thread identifiers.

- 4 -

49.   (New) The system according to claim 46 wherein the first sub-part of a sequence identifier is a network address or other network locator.

50.   (New) The system according to claim 49 wherein the first sub-part is a Universal Resource Locator (URL).

51.   (New) The system according to claim 49 wherein the first sub-part is an email address.

52.   (New) The system according to claim 49 wherein the first sub-part is an Internet Protocol network address.

53.   (New) The system according to claim 46 wherein a second sub-part of a sequence identifier is a number.

54.   (New) The system according to claim 53 wherein the number is randomly generated.

55.   (New) The system according to claim 54 wherein the number is produced by applying a hash function to data defining the subject matter of the sequence of messages.

56.   (New) The system according to claim 54 wherein for a given first sub-part, if the number generated for the second sub-part has previously been generated, then repeating the random generation

- 5 -